

TALES OF THE UNUSUAL

TALES OF THE UNUSUAL

STORY/ART BY SUNGDAE OH

AN AFRICAN INCIDENT

EPISODE THREE



THE YABURI HAVE PRACTISED CANNIBAL FOR A LONG TIME,
BUT IT'S NOT SOMETHING THEY DO REGULARLY--
ONLY AT COMING-OF-AGE CEREMONIES OR WHEN THERE ARE
FOOD SHORTAGES.

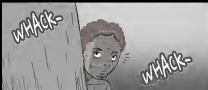


LONG AGO, THERE WAS A BOY IN THE VILLAGE CALLED
"IARU" WHO LIVED WITH EIGHT RELATIVES.



WHEN HE WAS JUST FIVE YEARS OLD,, THERE WAS A
TERRIBLE FAMINE IN THE VILLAGE.

THERE WAS NOTHING TO HUNT, AND THEIR STOCKPILES
WERE DEPLETED SO PEOPLE WERE DROPPING LIKE FUEL.



ONE DAY, AS JARU WAS WANDERING AROUND LOOKING
FOR FOOD, HE HEARD A SOUND COMING FROM BEHIND
HIS HOME.



HE WAS SHOCKED TO SEE WHAT IT WAS.

HIS FATHER WAS BEATING THEIR FAMILY'S MOST
PRIZED COW, WHICH HE HAD TAKEN SUCH PAINS
TO KEEP HEALTHY UNTIL THEN.



THE YABURI HAVE A BELIEF THAT IF YOU BEAT THE
ANIMAL BEFORE KILLING IT, THE MEAT TASTES BETTER
AND YOU GET MORE OF IT.

IARU'S FATHER KEPT BEATING THE COW FOR SEVERAL MINUTES EVEN AFTER IT WAS DEAD.



THAT EVENING, IARU'S FAMILY WERE FINALLY ABLE TO FILL THEMSELVES AND SATISFY THEIR HUNGER.



BUT THERE WAS STILL NO SIGN OF THE FAMINE COMING TO AN END ANY TIME SOON..



AS THE DAYS WENT ON, THE SITUATION WORSENE
AND THE WHOLE FAMILY WAS FORCED TO MOVE.

THEN ONE DAY, JARL'S YOUNGEST SIBLING WENT MISSING.

HIS FATHER WAS OUT HUNTING, AND THE OTHER FAMILY MEMBERS TRIED TO FIND HIM BUT THEY COULDN'T,



THEN, THAT NIGHT, HIS FATHER CAME HOME SAYING HOW LUCKY HE HAD BEEN TO CATCH SOMETHING.



IT MAY HAVE BEEN BECAUSE THEY HADN'T EATEN IN A WHILE, BUT THE MEAT TASTED EXCEPTIONALLY GOOD.

SO JARU AND HIS FAMILY ATE LOTS AND WERE FULL THAT NIGHT,



A FEW DAYS LATER, JARU'S FATHER AGAIN CAUGHT SOMETHING WHILE HUNTING.

THAT WAS THE DAY HIS SIXTH SIBLING WENT MISSING.



AND JUST AS BEFORE, THE MEAT THAT NIGHT WAS DELICIOUS,

THE FAMILY ATE EVEN MORE THAN USUAL SINCE THERE WAS ONE LESS MOUTH TO FEED.



THEN, A FEW DAYS LATER THE 5TH CHILD WENT MISSING.





"EVERY TIME WE EAT,
SOMEONE GOES MISSING"

THAT DAY, JARU FOUND IT
HARD TO SWALLOW THE MEAT
THAT HIS FATHER HAD CAUGHT.



DURING DINNER, JARU HID ONE OF THE BONES.



AFTER THEY HAD EATEN, IARU TOOK THE BONE AND
WENT SOMEWHERE IN SECRET.





THE PLACE HE WENT TO WAS A FORBIDDEN AREA
WHERE ORPHANS OR DISEASED CORPSES WERE THROWN,

BECAUSE OF THE FAMINE, THERE WERE BODIES
LAYING AROUND THAT NO ONE HAD BEEN ABLE TO BURY.



JARU COMPARED THE BONE HE HAD WITH THE ONES
LAYING AROUND ON THE GROUND.



AND THEN HE REALIZED.

GASP



WHAT THEY HAD BEEN EATEN WAS HUMAN FLESH...
HIS OWN BROTHERS...



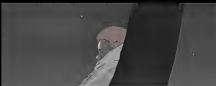
THE YABURI KEEPS CANNIBALISM A SECRET UNTIL YOU
BECOME AN ADULT,

WHEN FOOD IS SCARCE, THEY ARE WILLING TO SACRIFICE
THEIR OWN FAMILY MEMBERS TO KEEP THE TRIBE ALIVE.



A FEW DAYS AFTER THAT,







JARU'S FATHER FOUND HIM IN THE FIELD OF DEAD BODIES,
AND HE FORCED JARU TO COME BACK HOME WITH HIM.



AROUND FOUR DAYS LATER,



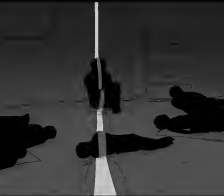
PEOPLE STARTED WONDERING WHY NO ONE WAS
COMING OUT OF JARU'S FAMILY'S HOUSE,



THEY LOOKED INSIDE AND RECOILED IN SHOCK.



INSIDE, AN EXTREMELY ILL-LOOKING JARU WAS
BREATHING HEAVILY..



AND EVERYONE EXCEPT JARU WAS LAYING DEAD ON
THE FLOOR,

THE DISEASE THAT JARU CAUGHT FROM BEING AROUND
THE CORPSES HAD SPREAD TO HIS ENTIRE FAMILY.



BEING AFRAID OF CATCHING THE DISEASE, THE VILLAGE
PEOPLE FORCED HIM OUT AND BURNED THE HOUSE DOWN.



NO ONE KNOWS WHY JARU ALONE SURVIVED,
BUT THANKS TO THAT DISEASE, HE WAS ABLE TO
CONTINUE LIVING.

THEY SAY THAT NOBODY HAS SEEN JARU SINCE--

ANYWAY, THIS WHOLE INCIDENT REALLY PUT THE YABURI
ON EDGE WHEN IT COMES TO DISEASES,

.....

SINCE THAT TIME,
THEY'VE BEEN AFRAID
TO EAT PEOPLE WHO ARE SICK
AND INSTEAD FORCE THEM
TO LEAVE THE VILLAGE.



A comic-style illustration of two men in a dark room. The man on the left wears a black cap and a white shirt with a black tie. The man on the right wears a black fedora and a dark shirt. Three speech bubbles are present: one from the left man, one from the right man, and one at the bottom. The background is dark and indistinct.

SO, WHAT YOU'RE
SAYING IS...

IF SOMEONE AMONG US
HAS A DISEASE,
THEY'LL BE ABLE TO
ESCAPE?

DO THEY REALLY LET YOU GO?
OR DO THEY KILL YOU..?



I'VE HEARD THAT THE PEOPLE
WHO ESCAPED BEFORE
ALL HAD SERIOUS SKIN
CONDITIONS.

B-BUT WE DON'T
HAVE THAT...

WELL, EVEN IF WE WERE
SICK, HOW WOULD THEY
KNOW ABOUT IT?

IT SEEMS THAT THE MORE OBVIOUS
YOUR ILLNESS IS, THE GREATER YOUR
CHANCES OF ESCAPING ARE...

IT'S BETTER TO HAVE
SOMETHING LIKE A SKIN DISEASE
THAN ONE THAT ISN'T VISIBLE.



A SKIN DISEASE?
OUR SKIN LOOKS
NORMAL THOUGH.

SO YOU'VE GOT TO TRY TO
CREATE A DISEASE.



THIS DISEASE—



IS TRANSMITTED IN BLOOD
AND CAN INFECT THE WHOLE
BODY IN A MATTER OF HOURS.

A comic book illustration featuring two men. The man on the left is wearing a brown fedora and a brown jacket, looking concerned. The man on the right is wearing a grey beanie and a white shirt, looking surprised. A large, dark, shadowy hand is reaching out from the left, pointing towards the man in the white shirt. The background is a dark, textured grey.

IT MAKES YOUR SKIN
REALLY RED AND ITCHY...

THERE ARE MORE SERIOUS
SYMPTOMS TOO
LIKE DIFFICULTY BREATHING,
DIZZINESS AND EVEN LOSS OF
CONSCIOUSNESS...

BUT IT LOOKS A LOT WORSE
ON THE OUTSIDE THAN IT
ACTUALLY IS...



IT'S CALLED
"FEROS DISEASE."

IF I GIVE YOU BOTH
THIS DISEASE...



WE MIGHT ALL BE ABLE TO
GET OUT OF HERE ALIVE. I

To be continued..